

Mannitol Salt Agar (MSA)

Principle:

Selective and differential media used for the isolation of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Intended Use:

Differentiates *Staphylococcus aureus* (+) from other *Staphylococcus* species.

Principle:

- Contains 7.5 % NaCl (salt) which inhibits the growth of most microorganisms, except *Staphylococcus* species.
- Contains phenol red indicator which is red/pink under neutral/basic conditions, but turns yellow under acidic conditions.
- When mannitol is fermented there is a decrease in pH, turning the red/pink media yellow.

Test Procedure:

1. Inoculate the organism directly onto the surface of an MSA plate and streak for isolation.
2. Incubate inoculated plate aerobically at 37°C.
3. Examine for growth after 18-24 hours of incubation.

Results:

The yellowing of the red/pink media indicates a positive result.